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JOURNAL OF MYCOLOGY

A Periodical Devoted to North American Mycology. Issued Bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September and November Price, \$2.00 per Year. To Foreign Subscribers \$2.25. Edited and Published by W. A. KELLERMAN, PH. D., COLUMBUS, OHIO

EDITOR'S NOTES.

"Personally I see no good reason for capitalizing any specific names, and my preference is decidedly in favor of following the practice of the zoologists" — an opinion expressed by a scientific writer which it is desirable to commend and heed. The zoologists as early as 1842 declared that "Specific names should *always* be written with a small letter even when derived from persons or places, and generic names should always be written with a capital." This custom has not changed; never was *Sitta canadensis* used in any other way, nor *Psaltriparus lloydi*, *Turdus aliciae bicknelli*, *Corvus americana*, *Papilio bairdi*, *Aphis brassicae*, or the balance of them. So written they are satisfactory for every purpose and from every point of view. But the botanical mind is at times apparently unstable; witness the following taken from a Catalogue: *Verbesina Virginica*, *Commelina virginica*, *Lycium Vulgare*, *Eleocharis Mutata*, etc. The reasons for invariably decapitalizing specific names — adjectives they are, or if nouns adjectiveal in significance — are ample in our opinion, but it would be of little avail to bring them forward again. It is "taste," mere custom perhaps, that carries the day for some people. But "tastes" differ; in our opinion the name *Tylostoma lloydii* "looks" quite as well as *sayi* or *batesii* — and if *Tylostoma lloydii* would perchance give offense to the mycologist honored, then it would seem a botanical name is after all not looked upon as something very impersonal.

Thirteen Parts of the Index to North American Mycology have now been issued — covering a period of seven years. This work has received cordial approval from many mycologists and a goodly number is found on the mailing list. It has been decided to extend the scope, and hereafter the area covered will be South as well as North and Central America. Installments may appear in every No. of the JOURNAL, but the Part or *Separate printed on one side of page* only, will not be distributed until the end of the year. Then all the items will be issued in one alphabetical list, the price to subscribers remaining approximately as at present.

The present No. is issued early, but the second No. of the year will be considerably delayed as usual.